



For Immediate Release:

Contact:

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RE: Draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment Statement

The Pebble Partnership views the current draft watershed assessment as rushed and inadequate.

- Rushed because the EPA has spent only 11 months on preparing the assessment;
- rushed because the first public meetings on this 1,100 page document are being held two short weeks after the draft report was released; and
- rushed because the EPA is providing only 60 days for Alaskans to comment on the matter in the middle of summer.

The current draft assessment is inadequate because:

- The EPA spent a mere 11 months studying an area of 20,000 square miles, while the Pebble Partnership has spent eight years studying approximately 1,500 square miles;
- inadequate because the Pebble Partnership study is nearly 30,000 pages for this acreage and the EPA is about 1,100 pages; and
- inadequate because our environmental studies were gathered and analyzed by scientists on the ground doing field research, while the EPA work has no primary research and by their own admission did not spend time analyzing our data.

The EPA should return in the fall when Alaskans have had the time to read through the material so they can meaningfully comment on this assessment. We support the state of Alaska in seeking a 120 day extension of the public comment period.

The EPA should take the time to do this assessment correctly or stop their work. The current approach is insufficient, inadequate and rushed.